Nellore. The technology is being scaled up for commercialisation.

(b) Aduaculture Mission Mode Programmes:

The mission mode programme on Semi-intensive Prawn Aquaculture to demonstrate technologies in different agro-climatic zones of the country on a commercially viable basis was launched in 1993-94. The programme will continue till March 1997. Two main components of the programme are—fresh water and brackish water prawn aquaculture. The programme has been taken up at seven sites in States/UTs of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

It is expected that the Mission Mode Programme would give a boost to marine/brackish/fresh water shrimp farming in addition to demonstrating brood stock technology, hatchery, feed development, diagnostics and setting up R & D facilities.

US proposal to set up Space Centre in India

7400. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America proposes to set up a space centre in India;

(b) if so, the site selected and the location of the centre; and

(c) the main objectives of setting up that Space Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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Space Programme Ignoring Social Goals

7401. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Space programme ignoring social goals" as reported in the 'Stateman' dated the 25th February, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the social goals laid down at the time of formulating the country's space programme have been ignored; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Commitment to meet the primary objective of socio-economic development of the Nation, with emphasis on self-reliance, through the establishment of INSAT and IRS Satellite System and building up of commensurate launch capability through PSLV and GSLV, has been hallmark of the Indian Space Programme since its inception.

The Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) with indigenously built satellites, INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B, is today providing vital services for Telecommunication, TV Broadcasting, Rural Telegraphy, improved weather forecasting for agricultural planning, disaster warning for timely evacuation of affected people, and satellite-based interactive education for the rural population, industrial workers, social workers etc.

The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) System has been providing advance warning on drought conditions, providing

date on the health of the crops, locating areas of ground water potential, identifying wasteland reclaimable for agriculture, providing data on flood risk zones for reducing risks to lives and property, monitoring water levels in reservoirs and giving estimates of snow cover to optimise water use for power and irrigation, etc. Forecasts on potential zones for fishing are helping the fishermen in the coastal areas to increase their catch. The Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development, launched in 1992, mainly using IRS Data, is aimed at generating locale-specific prescriptions for the optimal use of land and water resources for rural development.

Keeping in view the changing global scenario, the Indian Space programme, while meeting the requirements of socio-economic needs, is also making efforts on the commercial front—the agreement with the INTELSAT organisation for lease of transponders on board India's INSAT and with EOSAT company of USA for reception, processing and marketing of India's IRS Data are two such examples.

Application of Space Technology in Agricultural Field

7402. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility of adequate increase in the agricultural production and conversion of barren land into fertile one with the help of space technology and remote-sensing techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in agricultural production registered so far with the help of the above techniques alongwith the details of future comprehensive schemes of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Satellite remote sensing techniques have been effectively utilised in mapping and monitoring land and water resources in an integrated manner to enable conversion of barren land into fertile one and to maximise agricultural production, as detailed below:

— Mapping of several types of wasteland and their spatial extent which could be reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

— Land use/cover mapping for various agroclimatic zones of the country including identification of barren land thus providing inputs for evolving strategies for increasing the cropping intensity and crop planning.

— Soil resources mapping including land capability assessment indicating soil constraints (salinity/alkalinity, waterlogging, etc.) for improved soil management.

— Mapping of ground water potential zones, surface water bodies and acquaculture potential zones for agriculture and allied activities.

— Mapping and monitoring of irrgiation command areas to provide inputs for better water management.

— Mapping and monitoring of snow covered areas for predicting runoff into major reservoirs for enabling optimum reservoir operations.

— Monitoring of agricultural drought, floods, crop pests and diseases for better management of agricultural hazards.

— Pre-harvest crop acreage and production assessment for taking appropriate decisions on import/ex-

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